



Beaverton Police Department

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Chief Geoff Spalding



NEWS RELEASE

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Extra Patrols for Illegal Fireworks and Impaired Drivers

The Beaverton Police Department will be out in full force during the Fourth of July holiday weekend, cracking down on illegal fireworks and impaired drivers. Deputy Fire Marshals will be riding with designated law enforcement units to support illegal fireworks enforcement efforts.

Fireworks sales begin June 23rd, 2011 and the police department recommends you become familiar with which fireworks are legal within the State of Oregon.

Oregon law bans possession, use or sale of fireworks that fly, explode or travel more than six feet on the ground or 12 inches into the air. Fireworks commonly called bottle rockets, Roman Candles, and firecrackers are ILLEGAL in Oregon. Fireworks are prohibited in all state parks, beaches, and in federal parks and forests.

It is a common misconception that legal fireworks are less risky. Even legal fireworks are dangerous and have caused injuries and burns to users, especially unsupervised children. Oregon law holds parents liable for damages their children are found to have caused.

Celebrate safely this year by following these safety tips:

- Only adults should light or handle fireworks.
- Supervise children at all times when fireworks are being used.
- Store fireworks, matches, and lighters out of the reach of children.
- Use fireworks outdoors on a paved surface, away from buildings, vehicles, etc.
- Never point or throw fireworks at people, pets, or buildings.
- Never alter fireworks or make your own.
- Have a hose or bucket of water nearby to douse misfired and spent fireworks.
- For more safety tips, visit Tualatin Valley Fire & Rescue's website at www.tvfr.com.

Many people will be traveling this weekend as well and the police department encourages motorists to not mix alcohol with their driving responsibilities. Use a designated driver if attending a celebration where alcohol will be served.

The Fourth of July holiday weekend is one of family gatherings and celebrations. The Beaverton Police Department is asking for the public's assistance in making sure everyone has a safe weekend.

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